

June 9th

Well we left home at 10 this morning. It was a beautiful day and everything went well. We drove through Western Mo., W. Va, and Pa. and we ended up at a KOA in Lancaster, Ohio at six O'Clock. We had dinner, walked a little, talked to some neighbors, Now Jim is out riding the campground. We have some beautiful horses in the field right next to us. Well it was not a very exciting day but we covered a lot of miles and had no problems. We will be up at six in the morning and on the road by seven.

June 10th

Well, to-day was a very interesting day. We didn't get away until seven thirty and we hit the rush hour traffic to Columbus. When we stopped for gas we noticed the sides of our trailer were coming loose. So we talked it over and decided

we had to find an RV Service shop. So we looked in the Camp guide and found two in Dayton, Ohio, only 3 miles apart. So in we go. Well they said it would take two weeks to fix it. That was out of the question. Two weeks in Dayton, would be like two weeks in Minnoka. So we decided we should get another trailer. Both dealers offered us a terrific deal on a new trailer. A Jayco for \$7995. minus something for ours. It was a beauty but it was 20' and we would have trouble pulling it. Neither dealer had an 18'. So that was that. He stopped at Wall Mart and got caulking and braces. If we are going to try to fix it. Well we lost 2 1/2 hours but we finally got on the road again. He drove through the rest of Ohio and all through Indiana (boring)

and now it is 9:20 p.m. and we are in Bloomington, Illinois. It is a beautiful campground but we are having very heavy rain & some lightning. I hope it is all over by morning. Tomorrow, Jim will put braces on the front of the trailer. He caulked it when we got here. But we are all dry & very tired so I guess we will have a good night. The woman who checked us in said there was a railroad right across the street, so if we heard a train during the night, not to panic. Well, it wasn't a very exciting day, except a large train just went by. Maybe tomorrow will be better. Dry I hope.

June 11

Well to-day is Wednesday. We got away at 7:15 but then in fifteen minutes we passed a time zone and it was only 6:15. So we got a real early start. We drove through the rest of

Oglala & the entire state of
~~Indiana and all of Iowa~~. They
are now in Sioux City, South
Dakota. It rained off and on
all day but nothing to worry
about. It rained very hard all
of last night and two trains
went by but he blew the
whistle so we knew it wasn't
a storm. In Iowa, we saw
some deer, some pig farms and
we crossed the Mississippi
River. The entire state is
Casinos and River Boats for
gambling. Well, we didn't go
near them. Now we are at
a very nice KOA and we just
went up for an ice cream
social. All the ice cream and
cookies you want for \$1.25. We
took a long walk and Jim is
taking his shower. I like to take
mine just before I go to bed. We
drive over 500 miles a day and
I am tired. Tomorrow we'll
pick up another hair so it

will be another long day.

June 12

There had very heavy rain all afternoon yesterday and last night and it continued very hard all day to-day until we got to Wyoming. We left Sioux City, S. D. at 7:15 this morning in the rain. Driving was very difficult and around noon we saw an overturned truck in the median. A man said they got the driver out and took him away (I hope to a hospital). The state of S. D. has thousands of Oriole birds. They are all over the road and they are so pretty. At 2:30 we hit Mountain time so we set our clocks back another hour. We are two hours earlier now. Still we drove until we passed through S. D. and also 1/3 of Wyoming. We got to a campground about 6:30. We are at a Good Sam Park called Green Trees Crazy Woman. Legends say Crazy Woman was a lone survivor of an Indian raid. She survived alone on

the banks of Crazy Woman Creek.
The Indians considered her a
symbol of good luck. Well, it
has been a very long day and
tomorrow we drive through
Wyoming into Montana. So I
need to get my shower & some
sleep.

June 13.

Well, this Friday the 13th It is
6:45 p.m. and so far, except for a
very severe thunderstorm, we
have been very lucky. We left
Gillette, Wyoming at 6:25 this A.M.
It was very cool, sweat shirt weather.
We made friends with the couple
camped next to us. They have been
to Alaska by now and gave us a
lot of good advice. There is no
speed limit in Wyoming or Montana
except at night, its 65. So we
made very good time. We
just checking into a KOA in Butte,
Montana. They had fried chicken
& baked potatoes (Jo Jo's) so bought
them and had our dinner.

He went up to the phone and called Lorraine (no ans.) + Jimmy (no ans.) and finally got Bud. It is now 7 O'Clock and it looks like an all night rain. So I'm going to take my shower and read. Until tomorrow.

June 14 - Sat.

Well we left Butte, Montana this morning at 7 O'Clock. It was very cold (50's) and 30 mile an hour winds. We were only on the road about 15 minutes when we saw a sheriff with lights flashing. A large truck had lost control and tumbled over. The guard rail saved him from going over a big cliff. They had already taken him away. But it was very foggy, so we drove carefully. There is no speed limit. About 10:30 the fog lifted and we made better time. It is a very long way across the middle of Montana. About noon we stopped at a rest area (still in Montana). As soon as we got out at the van, a sign greeted us.

Rattlesnakes have been spotted
stay on side walk. Well, that
did it for me. The ate a quick
lunch and got out of there. He
finally reached the border
and after a few questions, we
passed over. Jim was very
polite to the customs man, he
yes sired and no sired him.
Then he asked if we had any
firearms on us. Jim said no
but we had a flare gun. The
guard just smiled and said
go on. We were in Alberta
about 1/2 hour and stopped for
gas and I saw a mountain
lion in the woods across
the street. He bought gas
that cost \$30.50. I gave him a
travelers check for \$100.00. Well
we got \$30.50 worth of gas and
\$104.75 in Canadian money back.
\$1.00 is worth \$.35. So I left
Alberta, and are now in Calgary.
We called David had a good
dinner, showered, cleaned

the trailer and man and we'll be leaving for Edmonton in the morning. It is very warm here. The first warm weather since we left home. It is 9:45 and the sun is still shining.

June 15

Well, I finally went to bed last night at 11 O'Clock and it was still bright. I pulled my sleeping bag over my head and I woke up with sunshine in my eyes. It was 5 O'Clock. So I made coffee and we were on the road a little before seven. We saw another truck off the road in Alberta and we saw several foxes. We had lunch at The Donalds and hit the road again. We saw some mule deer and a moose. We had another bad storm and heavy rain but we drove on. We drove 550 miles to-day and reached Dawson Creek ^{B.C.} the beginning of the Alaska Hwy. We are in a Good Sam Park

and we got the last sight. We have electric but no water. But the rain has stopped and we ate dinner, walked a little and visited the store. Tomorrow we have several places here in Dawson City to visit and we will be off again. We have driven over 3300 miles in 7 days but now we are on the Alaska Hwy and headed for the Yukon. It will be day light until, at least, midnight to-night. But it never gets real dark. It is hard to sleep.

Monday - June 16

Well this day started out not so good. We didn't get away from H&A until 8 O'Clock. Then we took some pictures and went to a museum. We had to put air in two tires. We finally got on the road and we had a flat. Well, we changed that and then had lunch. So it was noon when we finally got moving. We

saw a big black bear alongside the road and stopped for pictures. We were very excited. But we drove about another mile and there was this giant grizzly next to the road. It must have weighed at least 500 pounds. We stayed in the car but got some good pictures. It was scary. All in all we saw five black bears, one grizzly, a moose, a caribou, and a horse laying dead alongside the road. We drove until after eight to make up for the morning. Now it is 8:45 and we are in the Rocky Mountains way up where the snow is. We passed an ice glacier on the way here. We are camped at a provincial park, right on Summit Lake, surrounded by snow capped mts. It is very cold. We have no hook-ups at all. But we are going to get up very early and make it to the Yukon Border tomorrow.

Tuesday - June 17

Well, here it is another day. He had a very long day again. He left at 6 this morning and it was very cold. He saw several more bears, moose, caribou and sheep. That was exciting but the drive was terrible. The roads are all under construction and the dirt and lumps were terrible. Several times we had to wait for an escort car because it was over way. For at least thirty miles it would be dirt road and then two or three gravel then another 30 of dirt and construction. He are having some trailer problems but Jim is patching it up. I think we will have to get another trailer when we get home if we make it. He went grocery shopping at Super Fresh in Watson Lake and it was unbelievable. Bananas were \$1.09 a lb. Cookies were 4.49 and bread was 4.29 a loaf.

I bought two little bags and spent \$46.00. Oh well, it was Canadian money. He went to a bank here and changed \$400.00 worth of travelers checks for \$547.00 in Canadian money. But gas is \$35.00 every fill up and the only thing cheap is camping. The average about \$15.00 a nite for full hookups. Well, we're off again in the morning and maybe the roads will be a little better.

June 18 - Wednesday

We left Jake's Corner at 7 this morning. We had a very long day again. The road conditions were worse than the day before, if that's possible. We saw two wolves early in the morning and the rest of the day was rain and mud. It rained all thru the Yukon and the roads were all dirt. When we got into Alaska we had more construction but the rain stopped, so the mud on the car and trailer

dried. We drove 50 miles after we passed customs into the town of Tok. We found a station with a power spray but you had to wash your own. So for \$700 we power sprayed the mud off car and trailer. We are now in a very nice campground and we had dinner. Now I am going to shower and I won't be up very long. But it is only 7:35. It stays bright all night so it doesn't matter when you go to sleep. We are leaving in the morning for Fairbanks and I hope the roads are better. We will leave the trailer at a site in Fairbanks for several days and drive each day to where we want to go.

June 19 - Thursday

Well, it is 10 of 9 here now but it is 10 of 1 in the morning at Homer. It is very confusing. We are in Fairbanks at a very nice campground on the Chena

River. It is small, only about 35
camp sites. We went into a bigger
one but it was full and they
called ahead and got us a site
here. We left Tok this morning at
8 and stopped at the Visitors Center.
They had a lot of information and
a lot of "stuffed" animals. We
met two men there. They were
brothers and they must have been
around our age. They were
going clear to the Arctic Circle
and at Deadhorse as far as you
can go. They were funny. They
said if we had any trailer
problems, they had room in
their camper for us. We passed
them on the road several times.
We also stopped at the North
Pole. It was O.K. but too
commercial. We got here about
4 and cooked some chicken and
potatoes and had a good dinner.
We also did a load of laundry. We
are getting up early again tomorrow
to go either to Barrow or the Arctic

Circle. He are leaving the trailer and just driving up and back. He will probably stay in Fairbanks until Sunday. This campground is on a lake that has plane tours to every where. The little portcoxon planes are always taking off or landing. Camping was \$18.50 a site with hook ups. There is a free coffee & pastry breakfast in the lounge in the morning and a nice big lounge with TV and a VCR and tapes. It is very nice and clean. Well, I better shower and get to bed so I can get up at 6.
June 20 - Friday

It is Friday evening - 6:30 and it has been a very long day. We left Chena Lake at 7 this morning to drive to the Arctic Circle. It was an eight hour trip on very bad roads. We left the trailer at camp and, boy, were we glad. We never would have made it with the trailer. The road was dirt and gravel all

the way. When we got to the Arctic Circle, it was just a sign. No souvenirs, no food, no vending machines, nothing. So all we had to eat all day was a bag of popcorn that was left in the car. And that really makes you thirsty. So we got back here at six O'clock, very hungry, thirsty, and tired. We just finished dinner and I got some laundry folded. I won't be up long tonight. Tomorrow, we are going to go yard sales and look for some souvenirs and post cards.

Saturday - June 21

Well, this is the longest day of the year and all kinds of events are planned for mid-nite to night. Of course, we probably won't be up to see them. We went into Fairbanks to-day. We stopped at a few yard sales but the prices up here are out of sight. So we went to Alaskaland. It is a theme park and it is free.

There were all kinds of Souvenir
shops, rides and museums and
shows. He went for a ride on a
train and shopped and then
it was lunch time. He went to
a Salmon Bake at Alaska Land.
They set up huge ovens outside
and they bake salmon, halibut
steak and ribs. And there is a
salad bar & cole slaw, potato salad
pasta salads baked beans and
sour dough biscuits. You just
go around and fill your plates
as often as you like. The baked
salmon was delicious. And for
dessert we had blueberry
shortcake. Of course, we haven't
eaten and dinner to - night. We
were stuffed. Then we ran
into the Harley Davidson Rally.
They had over a thousand
bikers at a hotel parking lot.
He had to get a Harley Alaska
shirt for Billy E. Jr. and I asked
one of the bikers if we could
take pictures and he said

sure, just go over to the parking lot and mingle. So Jim did just that, I waited in the car. They were all very friendly. It was the Alaska Club Rally. So now I am doing some laundry. We are going to Denali Nat'l Park tomorrow for the day and it will be late when we get back. So I cleaned the trailer to night and washed my rugs & towels so we can get away early tomorrow. And on Monday, we are leaving for Anchorage.

Sunday - June 22

Well, this turned out to be some day. We left at 7 this morning and headed for Denali State Park. We intended to eat lunch and dinner on the road. Well, when we got to Denali, there was no sign of any food. So we went to the Visitors Station and looked around and then drove the Denali Hwy. We saw some beautiful scenery and plenty of snow capped mts. but we

didn't go far enough to see Mt. McKinley.
He will probably see that tomorrow
on the way to Anchorage. He drove
for hours on a dirt road. It was
terrible. But at least, we didn't
have the trailer hooked on. Well, we
did have a flat and we were
attacked by hundreds of mosquitoes
trying to charge it. I must have
50 bites, especially on my feet. They
are all swollen. Well, the tire was
changed and we were on the road
again. We had each had four small
nut rolls at 6 O'Clock and it is
after four. Then we had a storm
and still 200 miles to go. We
saw four moose on the road
I took pictures. He finally got
back to the trailer at 6:30. We
had ~~great~~ buttered tuna sandwiches
and now we are getting every
thing ready so we can leave for
Anchorage in the morning. We
have to get a tire changed on
the way. It will be another
400 and some miles day. It

seems like everything in Alaska
is from 300 to 400 miles from
each other.

Monday June 23

Well, we started out early
this morning at 7 but we had to
go to the grocery store and then we
had to find a store to fix two
tires. The had another blowout on
the van yesterday and one of the
trailer tires looked bad. So it
was 9:30 when we took off. It
was a long ride but for a change
there wasn't much construction.
We were heading for Anchorage
by way of Denali Park. We hadn't
seen Mt. McKinley, yet. But we
sure saw it today. From about
five different locations. It is so
fabulous. It made the day. Now
we are in Anchorage. We are like on
a parking lot but we have hookups
and cables. It's right off the
highway to downtown Anchorage.
We are going to stay here again
tomorrow night so that we can

spends tomorrow in Anchorage city. There are several places we want to see and we can't pull the trailer down town. There are only about 4 campgrounds in Anchorage so Wednesday morning we are heading south towards Kenai Peninsula &eward. Then Jim can do some fishing.

Tuesday June 24

Tell we had a very good day to-day. We drove into Anchorage this morning and went to the Visitors Center for some information. We watched a half hour film on the earthquake of 1964. It was a 9.4 and it destroyed 4 of Anchorage and lasted 30 seconds. It had 3 after shocks of 5.4 and many tidal waves as high as 70 feet. It was very scary. Then we went to a theatre in the record and saw a half hour film on Alaska that was very impressive. Then we did some more souvenir

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shopping. We ate lunch at K.F.C. Jim's favorite. Then we drove to Fort Richardson. Pep was stationed there. So we took some videos of that. Then we went to the Salmon Hatchery and watched very large salmon try to jump up a water fall. Now, we are back at camp, getting every thing ready to leave in the morning. We are heading toward Seward.

Wednesday June 25

Well, this has been a very busy day. We are in Seward, right near the Pacific Ocean. We are camped right on the shore of Resurrection Bay. I am sitting in the trailer watching the ships go by and the gulls and seals swimming around. And it never get dark. We haven't seen dark since we left Montara. Tomorrow Jim is going out on a fishing boat from 7:30 until 6:30 all day fishing for halibut. There is a limit of two but I hope he at least gets one. We spent

the day working thru this little fishing village. He did some more shopping and spent some time at the harbor. It is a real nice place. I found some nice souvenirs but I still need more. Tomorrow, I am going to clean the trailer and read. I have a whole day! Wow! Friday, we will probably leave for Homer.

Thursday June 26

Well, here it is another day. We are still in Seward but will leave tomorrow morning for Kenai. Jim went out on a headboat today. It was very cold and windy when they left but he did real good. He got his two halibut and my little freezer is full of fish now. Well I don't have much to say tonight. I had a very relaxing day. I just sat around and read.

Friday June 27

Well, this has been a very good day. We left Seward at 8

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this morning. And for once, we
had good roads all the way. I
couldn't believe it, It was a
short trip, only about 100 miles to
Kenai. We are going to leave the
trailer here for a few days and
take some side trips. About
half an hour from the campground
we saw three caribou. One had
a humongous rack. All in velvet.
Male & female caribou have racks
but this one had to be a buck. It
was huge. He got to the campground
about noon and had lunch. This
is a very nice campground. It is
a Good Sam and we have full
hook-ups. There is an overlook.
We are on the bluff of the Kenai
River and Cook Inlet. The tide
comes in 19 feet and the whales
are supposed to come in with
it. High tide is 11:17 to night.
Of course, it will still be sunny!
We are going to go over and sit
and watch the tide come in. The
time to look for whales is two

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Hours before high tide and two hours after. So about nine O'Clock we will go back. It is 5 O'Clock now and I am doing laundry. Then we are going to grill pork chops and baked potatoes and corn. They are eating very well. We drove out to a few yard sales but their prices are outrageous here.

Tomorrow we are going further south (67 miles) to a fishing village called Homer. It is right on the point of the Pacific.

Saturday June 28

Well, here it almost nine o'clock already and we are getting ready to leave in the morning. They are leaving for Valdez. It is over 400 miles so it will be another long day. We left at 8 this morning (without the trailer) and drove to Homer. It was beautiful country. We saw a baby moose and 2 eagles. And a lot of fishermen. They have campsites all along the water like we had in Seward. We sat on the

bluff until 11 O'Clock last night
but no whales came in. We won't
be up at high tide tonight (mid-nite)
so I guess we won't see the whales.
Maybe we'll see them in the
next few days. It seems like we
have been gone for such a long time.
But we have driven over 8,000
miles and seen so much. I will
never come here again but I would
never have missed this trip. It is
a dream come through. I reached 51°
here to-day and all the natives are
calling it a hot spell. They are all
out in bathing suits and shorts and
we have sweatshirts. More tomorrow.
Sunday June 29.

Well, we are ready to start our
fourth week. Tomorrow is Buddy's
Birthday and I will miss it. I
have something for him, though. My
writing is very bad. I have been
having trouble with my fingers.
They stiffen and hurt. My knees are
holding up good but I don't get to
use my hands all while we drive

and they get stiff on me. Well, we finished up our gift shopping to-day. We stopped in Anchorage for two hours and did that. But we had some very bad mountains and even worse roads. We were down to about 20 miles an hour for a long time and then were stopped about an hour waiting for a pilot car to lead us through several miles. So we didn't get to Valdez. We are in some back woods little camp site. There are four other camps here and you put your \$15. in a box. I hope the animals stay back in the woods tomorrow Valdez!

Monday - June 30 - Forgot.
Tuesday - July 1

Well it is July and it seems like we have been on the road for a long time. We got so busy last night at Valdez that we both forgot to write. We were disappointed in Valdez. It was so commercial. We were camped in the middle

of a big gravel parking lot with
campers right beside us on both
sides. I don't like people looking
right in my windows so we kept
the curtains closed. A camper up
at Kenai told Jim that you could
camp outside of Valdez and fish for
salmon right next to your camper.
Well, it sounded great so we signed
up for two nights. Then we drove to
the salmon stream but no salmon.
The run doesn't start until early
July. So everyone was just sitting
around waiting for the fish. So we left
there this morning and now we are
in Tok. It is a very nice Good Sam
park but we will only be here one night.
We just walked down the road
about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to a Salmon Baker.
They grill it outside. She had a
large piece of Salmon, baked beans,
salad bar and dessert. It was
great. Then we walked back $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
to the trailer. People up here are
very active. You see people walking,
riding bikes, skating, and jogging.

every where. And they all worship the sun. You see people sitting in the sun all day and all night. Most of them are very dark skinned. Well, we are leaving again in the morning for Haines, the land of the Eagles. I think we are going to spend three days there so we can celebrate the Fourth of July there. I don't know what they are having but most towns have celebrations. So we will just join in. Then we will be heading back into British Columbia. I am tired and it will be nice to be heading home.

Wednesday - July 2

Well, we are in Haines, AK. now. We drove 451 miles to get here. Went through Canada Customs and then U.S. customs. But we don't really like it here. We are going to leave in the morning. We will drive back 125 miles to Haines Junction and get back on the Alaska Highway. Well, I feel like a dirt ball.

The roads are so dusty. To-day wasn't too bad. We drove around the St. Elias Mts. all snow covered and glaciers. They have covered so much ground and so many bad roads. All of Alaska, Yukon and British Columbia is under road construction. You just bounce around all the time. It is unbelievable.

This campground is so strict you can't sneeze without permission. You can't even put a mat outside your trailer, you will mess up the grass. A 3 hour boat trip to a glacier costs \$129.00 a person. Well I don't like boats and we have been looking at glaciers for two weeks now. So any way, we are leaving here in the morning. The Bible says thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return. Maybe we are in the process!

Thursday July 3rd

Well, tomorrow is the big day, and we will be in the

Yukon. It is just a day here.
But we were too far from
home to spend any more time
in Alaska and we ran out of
places to go unless we flew and
that is out. A small plane with
three people aboard is down
somewhere near Mt. Whitney.
It went down Sunday and
no one has heard from anyone
aboard since. It is scary but
people are still paying to fly up
there. Also, the pilot of this
plane, took their money but didn't
file a flight plan so no one
knows who the people are.

Well, we left Fairbanks this morning.
We saw some eagles and went
to the grocery store and headed
back up. We hit the Alaska
highway again about noon and
lasted hour. We are camped
at Johnson's Crossing now. It
is a very nice place. We stayed
here on the way up. Jim is out
changing the oil filter on his

car. He had to go through Canadian customs to get out of Alaska. It was too much. He asked us all kinds of questions and we thought we were through, when he pulled out a flashlight and said now lets check your home away from home. I sat in the car and Jim went in the trailer with him. I didn't think they would ever come out. Finally, he did and said we could go. Jim said he opened every cupboard and every thing in the trailer. He lifted up the cushions & mattresses & even went through our underwear. I can't believe it, but I had two cartons of cigarettes hidden behind the clothes and he didn't find them. You are only allowed one carton. He was a jerk. No one has done that this whole trip. We have one more Canadian customs to go through to get out of here. We are both getting tired and

Looking forward to getting home.
But we have a long way to go.
It will be a week, at least,
before we are out of Canada,
and then we will still be
in Minnesota (a long way from
Bells.). Oh well, we'll make it,
and tomorrow is a new day. There
are a lot of campers in this
little pond, all bundled up and
sitting around campfires. We
had very large hail about an
hour before we got here. It
cleared some of the dirt from
the car & trailer but we were
lucky it didn't damage any
thing. But the temperature
dropped and it is cold again.

Friday July 4th

Well, I hope everyone at
home is enjoying the Fourth.
It is 7:15 here now but it is
10:15 there so I guess everyone
is at the fireworks. Well, we
spent the day on the road
again. We got away at

7:30 this morning and the road was great. The are on the Alcan again, headed back. He saw a small black fox walking right along side of the car. He drove until 11:30 and stopped at Watson's Lobe and had lunch. About an hour later we hit road construction but it wasn't bad. After about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours of dirt the construction ended for awhile. Then it started again and the flag girl told Jim he had a flat on the trailer. So he changed that and we were on the way again. Then we saw a giant Buffalo right on the road in front of us. So we filmed that. Then we gased up (\$42.00 worth) Canada is very high on gas. Then we were up in the Rocky Mts of Canada. You heard of the Canadian Rockies I'm sure. Well, they are big and we drove & drove and couldn't find a campground. We finally found one about 6 O'clock & pulled in. We

have electric only. But it is fine for one night. But when I turned the pump on, I had no water. It seems when the radial tire blew on the trailer, the wire strands in it cut two water lines. Well, of course, Jim patched it up. We have no water in the bathroom but I have cold water in the sink. To fix it, he will have to take the bathroom floor up. But it will have to wait until we get home.

Jim has a very bad back ache to-night, so he just went up to take a hot shower & then relax. This trip takes a lot out of you and we are really ready to get home. We have seen enough mountains & glaciers for a lifetime. But we still have a long way to go. So we will take one day at a time and do whatever we have to. Right now, everything is fine.

Saturday July 5th

Well, this was a very busy day. We left at 7:30 and had good roads for several hours. We saw animals almost from the time we left our camp sight. We saw moose, sheep, caribou, a buffalo and a fox. Then we ran into construction. Then we had another flat. But we got to where we wanted to stay but signs said campground full so we got a tire changed and hit the road again. It is 8:20 now and we are at a campground in Dawson Creek. We just had KFC for dinner and Jim is cleaning the van and I have to clean the trailer. He will be going through customs in a few days & then back towards home. I can't wait. It has been a trip of a life time, but we are starting our second month now and we are just about ready to go home.

Sunday July 6th

Well, this has turned from a very long boring day

to some thing else. The drive
throughout heavy rain all
day and saw nothing but
mountains & farms. The
road was very good and we
picked up another hour. We
got lost in Edmonton and
lost about an hour getting
back on the road. But it was
only 3:30 and we didn't want
to stop that early. But we
drove and drove and no
campgrounds. It was 7:30
and we had driven over 400
miles. Finally at Red Deer a
sign said Capping Lions
Campground. I thought it
would be a Provincial Park
(no hook-ups) but Jim said
we were going in to find out.
Well, we found this camp
ground that has full hook
ups (\$6.50 a night) and it is like
a dream. There are back under
low shady trees and every
thing is covered with white.

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It looks like snow. And it was still falling. Well it looks like Christmas in July. It is cotton and we are camped under the cottonwood trees. I have never seen any thing like it. It is 9:15 and still bright but it looks like snow flakes falling. Well, it made our day even though we only had ~~peas~~ sandwiches for dinner. Sometime tomorrow we will cross the border into "The lower 48." And it will be great. It costs us \$100. a day driving in Canada. We are going to take our time getting home and stop in Minnesota for a few days so Jim can fish and I can do laundry. Washing machines are \$1.75 a load and \$1.50 for 1/2 hour in the drier up here. So I have a lot of laundry. Well, until tomorrow.

Monday July 7th

Well, here we are at another camp ground. We are in Montana

in some body's back yard. But we have full hook ups and it was only \$4.00 a night. We drove until 5:30 and couldn't find any place so this sign said RV Parking full hook ups \$10.00. It is not much but we will be gone in the morning. I did do two loads of laundry. The machine was only \$1.00 a load & the dryer .35¢ for half an hour. So that helped. So to-day was a good day. We got thru customs and out of Canada. Called Lorraine and got some laundry done. It is 8:30 here (10:30 at home) the sun is still shining bright. It is hot but we have the air on. Getting thru customs was scary but more about that when we see you all.

Wednesday - July 9th

Well, I missed writing last night. We got to the camp ground late & I watched the All Star game. But to-night is

different. We are in Minnesota
at Fish Trap Lake. And we are
registered for three nights. Wow!
Jim has rented a boat for the
next two days so maybe he can
finally get in some fishing. I did
a load of laundry to night and
tomorrow I will clean the
trailer. It was very hot driving
from North Dakota to-day. We left
at 7 but in one hour we turned the
radio on and found that we had
lost another hour. Instead of 8, it
was 9. We got here around 4 and
it has been a good evening. We
even got some walking in. Well,
that's about all for now. It is twenty of
ten and I am going to read a while
& then go to bed.

Thursday July 10th

Well another day. To-day was
very relaxing for me. Jim went
fishing this morning and again
this evening. I'll let him tell
all about that. I did some
cleaning and read & watched

a few soaps. It is kind of windy to - night and they say we could have a thunder storm to - night. He rode out to the highway this afternoon looking for a food store. He found one about 10 miles away & bought some food. We are going to be here for a few days & we needed a few things. Well, as I said, it wasn't a very exciting day for me but I enjoyed it.

~~Saturday 10th~~ Friday July 11th

Well, this was a rather very relaxing day. For me, anyway, Jim went fishing this morning. Then we went for a ride & found a yard sale. He found a few books but we ended up talking to the two women over half an hour. They said that all these people that moved up to Alaska get a subsidy check of \$20,000.00 every year as long as they stay there six

months out of the year. It started
back when we purchased Alaska
& they needed people to populate it.
He also learned that if you
are a school teacher in Minnesota
when you retire, your pension
is the amount of your salary
every year. It was very interesting.
Well, Jim just got back from
fishing again & he has us all hooked
up to leave in the morning. It
is 9:00 O'Clock. We are only 1 hour
different now. It looks like if
we continue on as we are, we
should get home around next
Thursday. We have already been
through the five states left at
least five other times so there
is nothing left to see. So we
are just about camped out &
ready to get home. I hope our
poor trailer makes it. It is in
bad shape.

~~Saturday~~ July 12th Saturday
My goodness I can't even
keep my days straight any more.

I thought it was Sunday. So I
have another day. To-day was
a tough day. We had a 30 mile
an hour wind blowing right
into us and it was hard to
get any mileage. Plus it was
90° and very humid, so it was
rough. But, we made over
three hundred miles anyway.
We started out at 7 this morning
looking for yard sales. But we
only found 2 and they were all
kids stuff. We called Jimmy
from Burger King where we
ate our dinner and got all of
his news (you all had quite a
week), and told Jimmy we
would be home around
Wednesday or Thursday. We are
both very tired and are ready
to get home. But we still
have a lot of driving. We are
at a Grassam Park in Newton
Cous. It is set back in hills
called The Rolling Hills Campground.
But it is very hot and so we

are all closed up and sucking
the air. Jim was trying to make
it to airport to night but he
was just too tired. He is up
taking a shower now and he will
be ready to go again in the morning.
This is the fifth week now that
we have been getting up every
morning at 6 and on the road at
7. But when we think of what
all we have done it seems like
a dream. I can't wait to get home
and see our videos and get
my pictures done. Poor Kelly said
she cries every day because she
misses us. We miss her very
much too. But hopefully the next
few days will go quickly and we
will have a safe trip home.

Sunday July 13th

Well, here we are at another
campground. It is Sunday 8:00
Clock and we are in a Jellystone
Park outside of Indianapolis, Ind.
It was a very warm day they said
it rained but 104 to 110. and it

felt like it reached 110 about
noon. It drove 305 miles
to-day in spite of the heat. When
we left Iowa this morning at
7:30 it was storming. And it
stormed until about 11 then it
cleared and got hot. We wanted
to eat dinner at a Cracker Barrel
to-day but there were people
lined up outside waiting and
we were very hungry. So we
went to Araby's and had roast
beef. We passed several other
Cracker Barrels on the way and
they were all crowded. Maybe
we'll find one not so crowded
tomorrow. Well, we should
be home some time Wednesday.
That sounds so good.

Monday July 14th

Well we are another day
closer to home. I think we'll
make it. I hope. Jim changed
two more tires on the trailer
last night. They didn't look
too good. And to-day he

heard some kind of a vibration
in the van but he expects us
to make it home. He had a
strange day to-day. We expected
to get to our campground about
2 O'Clock and just relax. But we
hit a back up outside of Columbus
Ohio. Two tractor trailers jack-
knifed and they were blocking
fuel. Every main road was
closed for miles. We sat there
in traffic for over an hour but
they had no idea when it
would be cleaned up. So, Jim
cut across the grass & we went
back the other way till we found
a little road going in our direction.
We finally got back on 70 about
an hour further down from
the accident. Then we picked
up our last lost hour. So when
we finally got here it was 6:30.
We are at a KOA called Tanglewood
Lake, outside of Pittsburgh. It is
very nice. They have a beautiful
lodge with a big screen T.V. and

a nice pool. Also a nice fishing lake. They said there is trout & bass so Jim just went up to check it out. You don't need a license. Tomorrow morning we leave for Md & we will probably be around Lagers town tomorrow night. So we should get here fairly early Wednesday. I still can't believe what we did, but the trailer looks it.

Tuesday July 15th

Well, this is our last night of camping. Tomorrow we will be home. I have forgotten what home is. But I know I won't have to pack up every morning and leave. It seems like such a long time since we left, and I have forgotten a lot of the things that we have done. But, now it is time to settle down again. I have a lot to do at home. We have tried to call Sharon three times these last few days but we can't get her. So I will call her at home tomorrow. We had a very nice day. We left Pittsburg this morning about 8 and we found a campground near Hancock called Indian Springs. It is very quiet, only a few people here. But we cleaned the van and trailer and emptied all of the cupboards so we won't have so much to do in the morning. Then we got ready & drove into Hagerstown and

Had a nice prime rib dinner
at the Ponderosa. Then we
drove around looking for deer.
Jim saw one. But there are a
lot of new houses all up this
way. We finally ended up at
the C+O Canal. It is very hot
here, it was 99° at 6 O'Clock. I
guess it will be even worse
at home. But we will survive.
Anyone who survives the Alcan
hvy. twice in a month, can
survive anything!!